

REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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Review Editor

Leg Ulcers: Medical and Surgical Management,

Henry H. Roenigk, Jr., M.D. and Jess R. Young, M.D. Harper & Row, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1975. (265 pp; \$27.50)

This book bridges a gap between two specialties, dermatology and vascular surgery. It presents the kind of information needed by specialists, general practitioners, and students who see and treat ulcerating conditions of the lower extremities.

Ulcerative diseases of the lower extremities are extremely common. This small volume accurately categorizes their pathology, describes their clinical pictures, and gives up-to-date treatment. It is recommended reading and reference for those who treat patients with skin conditions of the feet and legs. The contributors, all from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, are experienced clinicians and their information is to the point without being dogmatic.

A handy classification of ulcerating conditions introduces the text of the book so that it is easy to refer rapidly to a disease entity, to a differential diagnosis, or to a mode of therapy. The spectrum of subjects described reaches from vascular, iatrogenic, metabolic, and neoplastic diseases to fungal and bacterial infections. My only criticism is that the section on chronic, recurrent stasis ulcers is long on office treatment and short on surgical therapy which is dismissed with: "...ligation and stripping of incompetent superficial veins may sometimes help prevent recurrence of edema and ulcers."

Stasis ulceration might also have commanded a more detailed description of pathogenesis. On the other hand, the application of supportive dressings is beautifully described. The work includes extremely valuable photographs and descriptions of dermatologic disorders such as necrotizing vasculitis which might not be readily recognized by the vascular surgeon. The color photographs will be particularly appreciated by those inexperienced in dermatology.

This book is a worthwhile addition and the authors are to be congratulated for their contribution.

Edward W. Friedman, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Brookline, Massachusetts

Immunology in Medical Practice, Geoffrey Taylor, M.D. (Ed.). W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, 1975. (396 pp; \$28.00; \$28.85 in Canada)

The text of *Immunology in Medical Practice* is choppy and uneven, hardly what one usually expects from an all-British group of authors. Referencing is uneven as well; some contributors list only major reviews while others provide detailed citations. Some, in poor taste, fail to go beyond journals published in Great Britain.

In short, this book is dated and does not offer any of the excitement of clinical (or basic science) immunology of the 1970s.

Kirk D. Wuepper, M.D.
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Skin Tumors of the Foot: Diagnosis and Treatment, Morton D. Fielding, D.P.M. (ed). Futura Publishing Company, Mount Kisco, N.Y., 1974. (240 pp; \$24.50)

This 240-page monograph is intended to "assist the podiatrist and other clinicians in the clinical diagnosis and management of skin tumors as they affect the foot." Since the feet represent approximately 2% of the skin surface and the editor feels that more than 2% of skin tumors are present on the feet, the need for a volume such as this does seem real. This text, however, does not completely or adequately fill the need.

There are five sections to the book. With few exceptions, most notably the chapter on melanoma, the information presented is shallow, conveying little more than an introduction to a topic or entity. Consultation of a more definitive text would be required to gain any reasonable degree of information about a majority of the topics presented. Most, but not all, of the four pages of color plates are satisfactory. However, the multiple black and white photographs are of inferior quality because of poor focus, overexposure, or poor reproduction in printing, thereby rarely even adding a visual dimension to the mediocre text.

Little is presented about the treatment and management of many of the entities and that which is noted is primarily anecdotal, as judged by the references. Taken at face value, several thera-

peutic suggestions appear questionable. For example, in the discussion of therapy of molluscum contagiosum it is suggested that "some broad spectrum antibiotics have a static effect on the growth of very large viruses, and thus have produced some good but variable results in cases of molluscum contagiosum." Another suggestion regarding treatment of plantar warts with liquid nitrogen "recommends applying the liquid nitrogen with a cotton swab for a period of 15 minutes," which seems extreme.

Unquestionably, the chapter devoted to melanoma is the best of the monograph. It is generally current, factual, and informative. The chapters about squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma, while not of the quality of the melanoma section, are definitely better than most and do serve as a fair introduction to these subjects.

A significant portion of the book deals with cutaneous entities that, while rarely seen on the foot, have no good reason to be included in a text of tumors of the feet, i.e., bullous pemphigoid, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, Reiter's syndrome, and acanthosis nigricans. Deletion of these subjects and upgrading the descriptions and management of tumors, either benign or malignant, to compare with the sections on melanoma could not help but make the text fit the title and the book more valuable to those concerned.

Harley A. Haynes, M.D.
Gregory Flint, M.D.
Boston, Massachusetts

Animal Models in Dermatology, Howard Maibach, M.D. (ed). Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, New York, 1975. (278 pp; \$28.00)

This book records the proceedings of a symposium held at the University of California Medical School, San Francisco in September 1974. There are 28 chapters by 44 authors from the United States and Europe—18 from academia, the same number from industry, 9 from various governmental agencies, and 1 unidentified. You will use this book principally as a reference book and in it you will find sections devoted to primary irritation, allergic hypersensitivity, phototoxicity and photosensitivity, percutaneous absorption, carcinogenesis, sebaceous glands, inflammation, cell kinetics, wound repair, depigmentation, and impetigo.

I do not know what "instructions" were given to the authors when invited to participate in this symposium. Some have chosen principally to review their subjects, others have reported their own investigations almost exclusively. Almost all chapters have extensive bibliographies; most are ar-

ranged alphabetically, one is numbered, fortunately only one is neither alphabetical nor numbered.

I have the impression that the participants were not supplied any general or specific goals of the symposium. I miss an introductory chapter presenting an overview of the entire symposium and its goals. Chapter 4 comes closest to such an overview. This chapter also reviews some of the anatomical, biochemical, physiologic, genetic, metabolic, and mechanical differences in the skins of various species. Indeed, I believe it would be helpful to most readers if they read this chapter first. I miss also a summary chapter. If a summary was not given at the symposium it would have been justifiable to have prepared such a summary after receipt of the written manuscripts and this would have been helpful to the readers.

The subtitle of this book is "Relevance to Human Dermatopharmacology and Dermatotoxicology." This is not very specific; possibly the organizers of the symposium were thinking principally of the relevance of animal models for predicting the efficacy and risk of topical therapeutic agents. It is obvious that there can be only limited use of animal models for accurately predicting therapeutic efficacy, since so few cutaneous diseases have counterparts in animals. Of course, specific signs, such as inflammation, do have counterparts in many animal models and efficacy in counteracting these signs can be studied. Judgement as to specific relevance, however, is guarded. Although human vasoconstriction tests often correlate well with various anti-inflammatory tests on animals (Chaps. 21 and 22), "we must remember that final proof occurs in the final formulation and also in the clinical situation" (p. 222) and "the ultimate system for establishing therapeutic efficacy of topical corticosteroid formulations is the qualitative and quantitative clinical trial" (p. 203).

Several animal tests have been used to predict strong sensitizers for man, some of which appear more relevant than others (Chaps. 5, 6, and 7); modifications of standard tests may predict weak sensitizers. The risk of irritation is somewhat more difficult to predict accurately, though evidence is presented in Chapters 1 and 2 which shows good correlation between tests on animals and man. Chapter 2 ends with the statement, however, that "in the final analysis there can be no substitute for the skin of man in testing topical preparations for irritancy under both exaggerated and conditions approaching normal usage." When trying to forecast the risk of irritation or sensitization under usage conditions, it must be remembered that no test has been devised which duplicates the wide